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By *ADAM FITZ-ADAM.*

To be continued every THURSDAY.

THURSDAY, *June* the 24th, 1756.

AVERY facetious friend of mine was obſerving the other day, that he could always diſcover with great certainty the ſhape, height and complexion of any man's wife in company, by calling for his toaſt. If he gives you a lean woman, depend upon it, ſays he, his wife is a fat one; or if he drinks his bumper to a beauty of fine height and complexion, you may ſafely conclude that the lady at home is little and ſwarthy, and ſo on: for, continues he, I have ever found it to be true, that when a man has been married a full half year, he will be the conſtant admirer of all other women, in proportion as they differ from his own wife.

I WISH with all my heart there was no colour of truth in this remark; but I am afraid that the wives of the generality of men, like their other poſſeſſions, are apt

to

to pall a little upon their hands. Fine fortunes, fine houſes, fine gardens and fine equipages, bring but little enjoyment to their owners; inſomuch that we are every day breaking the tenth commandment, by *coveting our neighbour's houſe, our neighbour's wife, or any thing that is our neighbour's.*

WHENCE this perverſeneſs of mankind ariſes, I will not take upon me to determine. My friend, who never thinks enough to perplex himſelf, lays the fault upon human nature. He aſſerts that men are in every reſpect juſt what they were intended to be, and that we have the ſame reaſon to be angry with a bear for not being a man, as with a man for having the imperfections of one.

THAT we are frail by nature is too certain a truth; but the comfort is, that He who made us ſo, does not expect perfection from us, and will pardon errors that do not proceed from wilful corruption, and obſtinate diſobedience.

THERE is a humourous fable of the ancients upon the general frailty of mankind, which as I have never ſeen in Engliſh, I have ventured to modernize and tranſlate for the entertainment of my readers.

" JUPITER, after he had ſeized the throne of Saturn, " conquered the Titans, and made the univerſe his " own, left the government of this lower world, and " the affairs of mankind, to the inferior deities. Each " had his ſeparate votaries, and no one was to interfere " in the department of another. Mars was captain ge- " neral of the ſoldiery of all nations; Neptune was " lord high admiral; Bacchus preſided over clubs and " feſtivals, Mercury over trade, Apollo over wit and " phyſic, Minerva over learning, Venus and the Gra- " ces over beauty, Juno over marriage, Diana over " chaſtity, and ſo on.

" In

" In the first ages of the world the affairs of men " seemed to be in a very flourishing condition; but the " face of things began gradually to change, till at last " a general depravity prevailed over the face of the " whole earth. The gods, finding themselves unequal " to the task imposed upon them, and angry with man- " kind, petitioned Jupiter to take the government of " them into his own hands; but he frowned at their " request, commanding them to proceed as they had " begun, and leave consequences to himself. The de- " ities, perplexed at their repulse, convened a council " among themselves, in which it was agreed that they " should draw up a second petition to Jupiter, that for " the better understanding the nature of mankind, they " should have leave to pay a visit to the world, and to " take upon them for a time the several natures of their " votaries. Jupiter laughed, and consented to their " petition, but with this particular limitation, that they " should be entirely divested of supernatural powers, " and that as they were to personate mortals, they " should be subject to their frailties.

" The deities consented to the will of Jupiter, and " having deliberated on the several parts they were to " act, made their descent upon the earth. Mars bought " himself a pair of colours in the guards, and being a " gay handsome young fellow, and a great favourite of " the ladies, was quickly advanced to the command " of a company. His equipage was the most splendid " that could be imagined; he dressed, danced, gamed " and swore to the utmost perfection; he knocked " down watchmen and constables, drew his sword up- " on chairmen and waiters, laughed at the parsons, " biiked whores and hackney-coachmen, cheated tay- " lors and lace-men, stormed towns at every tavern,

" and

" and ſaluted at the head of his company with inimita-
" ble grace. But having unfortunately ſeduced the
" wife of his friend, and being called out on the occa-
" ſion, he choſe to decline fighting, and was broke
" for cowardice.

" NEPTUNE was a hardy rough tar, and got early the
" command of a ſixty gun ſhip. He attacked the trade
" of the enemy with great intrepidity, and took prizes
" of immenſe value. His prudence was equal to his
" courage; inaſmuch as his ſhip was never known to
" ſuffer by the enemy's ſhot, or a man to die on board
" her of a violent death. But as Neptune was now
" no more than a man, and therefore liable to error,
" he had the misfortune to miſtake his admiral's ſignal
" to attack, for a ſignal to ſheer off, and happening to
" have no intereſt at court, was diſabled from ſervice,
" and ſent to live upon his fortune.

" BACCHUS was a country ſquire, and a great ſports-
" man; he got drunk every day, and debauched all the
" wives and daughters of his tenants and neighbours;
" till being reduced by his extravagance, and driven to
" various ſhifts, he at laſt drew beer in a night-cellar to
" hackney-coachmen and ſtreet-walkers.

" MERCURY was a linen-draper in the city, and
" acquired a plentiful fortune by being three times a
" bankrupt; but happening to be diſcovered in a fourth
" attempt, he was ſtript of all his wealth, and very
" narrowly eſcaped hanging. He was afterwards cap-
" tain of a gang of thieves, and at laſt recalled to heaven
" from the condemned hold in Newgate.

" APOLLO commenced mortal in the character of a
" phyſician, and ſo peopled the ſhades of Pluto with
" ſouls, that the boat of Charon became crazy by their
" weight. Jupiter grew incenſed at his murders, and
" commanded him to begin the world again in a more

innocent

" innocent calling. Apollo obeyed, and became a wit. " He compoſed looſe ſonnets and plays; he libelled the " good, flattered the bad, blaſphemed the gods, and " was patronized by the great: but unhappily ſtanding " in need of their aſſiſtance, they withdrew their favours, " and left him to ſtarve in a garret on the bounty of the " bookſellers.

" MINERVA was a lady of fine parts and learning, but " a great ſlattern. She never ſtuck a pin in her clothes, " nor changed them till they wore out. Her linen " was ſtained with ink, her hair uncombed, her petti- " coats falling off, her ſtockings full of holes, and her " feet ſlipſhod. She talked in ſyllogiſms, wrote in he- " roics, and married her footman.

" VENUS, who while a goddeſs, had always a han- " kering after mortal fleſh and blood, was highly pleaſ- " ed with this deſcent upon earth. She aſſumed the " form of a beautiful girl of fourteen, took lodgings in " Covent-garden, and dealt out her favours liberally to " all viſitors. Her ſtate of mortality was ſo ſuited to her " inclinations, that heaven and the goddeſs were never " thought of, till the loſs of her noſe made her ſigh for " immortality.

" DIANA was a great prude all day, but had her " Endymions by moonlight. It is reported of her that " ſhe was eleven times brought to bed, without being " once able to give the leaſt probable gueſs at the father " of the child.

" OF Juno it is only ſaid, that ſhe ſcolded ſeven huſ- " bands to death; and of the Graces, that they were " exceeding neat girls till they married, and ſluts after- " wards.

" HAVING ſtaid the limited time upon earth, they " were all ſummoned to heaven, in their human forms " and habits, to make their appearance before the throne " of Jupiter. Mars and Neptune made a tolerable fi-

gure,